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# TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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# Part V—Section 4

## Notifications by the Election Commission of India

NOTIFICATIONS BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

JUDGMENT OF THE HIGH COURT OF MADRAS IN ELECTION PETITION

NO.05 OF 2024

#### No. SRO G-20/2025.

The following Notification of the Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001, dated 15th May, 2025 [25 Vaisakha,1947 (Saka)] is published:-

**No. 82/TN-LA/(EP 05 of 2024)/2025:-** In pursuance of section 106 (b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), the Election Commission hereby publishes the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras dated **18.03.2025** in Election Petition No. 05 of 2024.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)
TUESDAY, THE 18 TH DAY OF MARCH 2025
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.K ILANTHIRAIYAN
Election Petition No. 5 of 2024
and
O.A.NO.128 OF 2025

## ELP NO.5 OF 2024:-

#### M.RAJAMANICKAM

S/o. Maasaanam, No.124, Koovanur, Pillur Post, Sivagangai -630 561.

.....Petitioner

-Vs-

## 1. CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110 001.

#### 2. CHIFF FLECTORAL OFFICER

Public Elections Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.

#### 3. RETURNING OFFICER

75 – Vikravandi Assembly Constituency, Vikravandi Taluk Office, Villupuram District – 605 652.

## 4. ANNIYUR SIVA @ SIVASHANMUGAM.A

S/o Ariyaputhiran, No.26, Bharathiyar Street, Anniyur, Vikravandi Taluk, Villupuram District 605 202.

#### 5. MAHENDIRAN

S/o. Subiramani, 364, Vinayagar Koil Street, Saalaiyaampalayam, Villupuram 605 608.

## 6. S.SEKAR

S/o. Subiramani, No.70, Aasaakulam, Saalaamedu, Villupuram 605 401.

## 7. S. ULAGANATHAN

S/o .Sagadevan, No.44/50, Vanniyar Street, Poonthottam, Villupuram 605 602.

## 8. S. VIJAYA

W/o. Selvaraj, No.3/2523, Bhuvaneswari Colony, Sakkimangalam, Illamanur Main Road, Illamanur , Madurai 625 201.

## 9. K. RAJA STALIN

S/o. N. Kandasamy, No.1/77, North Street, U. Nemili Village, Pandoor Post, Ulunderpet Taluk, Kallakurichi Dt 606 102.

#### 10. J. JANARDHANAN

S/o. Javaraman. No.28/16. Avvasamy Cross Street. Tindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District 604 001.

#### 11.DR. A.V.NARENDIRAN

S/o. A. Varadappan, No.6, First Street, E.S.T. Nagar, Podaturpet, Pallipettu Taluk. Tiruvallur District 631 208.

#### 12. DR.K.PADMARAJAN

S/o .K.Kunchambu Nair, No.3/3-23 A, Padma Nivas Building, Raman Nagar Post, Mettur Dam - 636 403 Salem District.

#### 13. AGNI ALWAR

S/o.Nallappan, No. 6, Nagamarai Main Road, Nagamarai Pudur, Nagamarai Post, Pennagaram -636 810, Dharmapuri Dt.

## 14. S. MUTHIAHA

S/o. Srinivasn, No. 9/7, Mottaiyan Street, Tindivanam, Villupuram -604 001.

#### 15. K.SANTHAMOORTHY

No. 4, Murugan Kovil Street, Vinayagapuram, Semangalam, Vanur Taluk, Villupuram District-605 109.

..... Respondents

This Election Petition praying that this Hon'ble court be pleased to a) declare that the rejection of the nomination of the petitioner, filed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Bye election to No.75-Vikravandi Assembly constituency on 24.06.2024 is unjust, illegal, invalid and against the Statutory law, R.P. Act and thereof, b) declare that the acceptance of Nomination filed by the 4th Respondent in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Bye election to No. 75, Vikrayandi Assembly constituency on 24.06.2024 is illegal and against the Statutory law, R.P. Act and thereof c) declare that the non-submissions of accounts by the 4th respondent as per section 77 of R.P. Act, 1951, is violative of R.P.Act is disqualify as per Section 10- A of R.P. Act iv) Declare that the election held on 10.07.2024 results announced and declare of the 4th respondent as elected on 13.07.2024 to the No.75 Vikravandi Assembly Constituency Bye election of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly as null and void.

#### OA NO.128 OF 2025:-

ANNIYUR SIVA @ SIVASHANMUGAM.A
S/o. Ariyapurthiran, No.26,
Bharathiyar Street, Anniyur,
Vikravandi Taluk,
Villupuram District 605 202. ....Applicant/4th Respondent

-Vs-

#### 1. M.RAJAMANICKAM

S/o. Maasaanam, No.124, Koovanur, Pillur Post, Sivagangai – 630 561.

#### 2. CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Election Commission of India, Nirvachan sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001.

#### 3. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Public Elections Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai- 600 009.

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75- Vikravandi Assembly constituency, Vikravandi Taluk Office, Villupuram District – 605 652.

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S/o. Sagadevan, No.44/50, Vanniyar Street, Poonthottam, Villupuram 605 602.

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W/o. Selvaraj, No.3/2523, Bhuvaneswari Colony, Sakkimangalam, Illamanur Main Road, Illamanur, Madurai 625 201.

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S/o .K.Kunchambu Nair, No.3/3-23 A, Padma Nivas Building, Raman Nagar Post, Mettur Dam - 636 403 Salem District.

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S/o.Nallappan, No. 6, Nagamarai Main Road, Nagamarai Pudur, Nagamarai Post, Pennagaram 636 810 Dharmapuri Dt.

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S/o. Srinivasn, No. 9/7, Mottaiyan Street, Tindivanam, Villupuram 604 001.

#### 15. K.SANTHAMOORTHY

No. 4, Murugan Kovil Street, Vinayagapuram, Semangalam. Vanur Taluk. Villupuram District 605 109.

This original Application praying that this Hon'ble Court be pleased to reject Election Petition No.5, of 2024.

The above Election petition and Original application having been heard on 06/03/2025 in the presence of M/s, N.R. Elango Sr. Counsel for Mr. A.S. Aswin Prasanna for Applicant/ 4th Respondent in Elp. No. 5 of 2024 and Mr. T. Sivagnanasambandan Advocate of 1st Respondent /Election Petitioner and upon reading the Election Petition. Judges summon and Affidavit of Annivur Siva @ Sivashanmugam, and counter filed by the Respondent/ Petitioner filed herein and this court having stood over for consideration till this day and coming on this day before this court for orders in the presence of the above said advocates and this court have observed that, the bald and vague averments made in the election petition do not satisfy the requirements of pleadings of material facts within the meaning under section 81(9) of the Act read with Order VII Rule 11 of CPC, which mandates that the election petition shall contain a conscience of statement of material facts on which the petitioner relies,

the material facts required to be stated or those facts which can be considered as materially supported the allegations made, there must be such facts have to afford a basis for the allegations made in the objection and would constitute a cause of action as contemplated in the CPC and the non-mentioning of the particulars as to how such improper acceptance of nomination had materially affected the result of the election is apparent on the face of the election petition, further the pleadings of the election petition have to be precisely substantiate and unambiguous and therefore, the allegations contained in the election petition did not set out as contemplated under section 100 (1)(d)(1) and did not conscience with the requirement of section 83(1)(a) of the Act r/w Order VII Rule 11 of the CPC.

#### It is ordered as follows;-

- 1. That the original Application No. 128 of 2025 be and is hereby Allowed.
- 2. That the Election petition No.5 of 2024 be and is hereby rejected.
- 3. That there shall be no order as to close.

WITNESS, THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHRIRAM KALPATHI RAJENDRAN, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT AT MADRAS, AFORESAID THIS THE 18 TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.

Sd./-ASSISTANT REGISTAR Original Side -II

// Certified to be true copy//

Dated at Madras this the 1st day of April 2025.

COURT OFFICER(O.S)

'Madras High court is issuing certified copies in this format from 17/07/2023'.

MK

28/03/2025

ELP. NO.5 OF 2024 AND O.A.NO.128 OF 2025

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

DECREE DATED: 18/03/2025 FOR APPROVAL : 28/03/2025 APPROVED ON : 28./03/2025

## Copy to:

- 1. Chief Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, No.1, Ashoka Road. New Delhi- 110 001.
- 2. Chief Electoral Officer Public Elections Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.
- 3. Returning Officer 75 – Vikravandi Assembly Constituency, Vikravandi Taluk Office. Villupuram District - 605 652.

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(ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)
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#### ELP NO.5 OF 2024:-

M.RAJAMANICKAM S/o. Maasaanam, No.124, Koovanur, Pillur Post, Sivagangai -630 561.

.... Petitioner

-Vs-

## 1. CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110 001.

- 2. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
  Public Elections Department,
  Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009.
- 3. RETURNING OFFICER
  75 Vikravandi Assembly Constituency,
  Vikravandi Taluk Office, Villupuram District 605 652.
- 4. ANNIYUR SIVA @ SIVASHANMUGAM.A S/o. Ariyaputhiran, No.26, Bharathiyar Street, Anniyur, Vikravandi Taluk, Villupuram District 605 202.
- 5. MAHENDIRAN S/o. Subiramani, 364, Vinayagar Koil Street, Saalaiyaampalayam, Villupuram 605 608
- 6. S.SEKAR S/o. Subiramani, No.70, Aasaakulam, Saalaamedu, Villupuram 605 401.
- 7. S. ULAGANATHAN S/o. Sagadevan, No.44/50, Vanniyar Street, Poonthottam, Villupuram 605 602.

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#### 10. J. JANARDHANAN

S/o. Jayaraman, No.28/16, Ayyasamy Cross Street, Tindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District 604 001.

#### 11. DR. A.V.NARENDIRAN

S/o. A. Varadappan, No.6, First Street, E.S.T. Nagar, Podaturpet, Pallipettu Taluk, Tiruvallur District 631 208.

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S/o. Srinivasn, No. 9/7, Mottaiyan Street, Tindivanam, Villupuram 604 001.

## 15. K.SANTHAMOORTHY

No. 4, Murugan Kovil Street, Vinayagapuram, Semangalam, Vanur Taluk, Villupuram District 605 109.

...Respondents

## OA NO. 128 OF 2025:-

ANNIYUR SIVA @ SIVASHANMUGAM.A S/o. Ariyapurthiran, No .26, Bharathiyar Street, Anniyur, Vikravandi Taluk, Villupuram District 605 202. ... Applicant/4th Respondent -Vs-

#### 1. M.RAJAMANICKAM

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#### 15. K.SANTHAMOORTHY

No. 4, Murugan Kovil Street, Vinayagapuram, Semangalam, Vanur Taluk, Villupuram District 605 109.

This Original Application praying that this Hon'ble Court be pleased to reject Election Petition No. 5 of 2024.

The above Election Petition and Original Application having been heard on 06/03/2025 in the presence of M/s .N.R. Elango Sr. Counsel for Mr. A.S. Aswin Prasanna for Applicant/ 4th Respondent in Elp.No.5 of 2024 and Mr. T. Sivagnanasambandan Advocate of 1st Respondent/ Election Petitioner and upon reading the Election petition, Judges summon and Affidavit of Anniyur Siva @ Sivashanmugam, and counter filed by the Respondent/Petitioner filed herein and this court having stood over for consideration till this day and coming on this day before this court for orders in the presence of the above said advocate and

#### The Court made the following order:-

This petition has been filed to reject the election petition in E.L.P.No. 5 of 2024 filed by the first respondent herein.

2.The first respondent filed E.L.P.No.5 of 2024 for declaration, to declare that the rejection of his nomination filed for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Constituency No.75, Vikravandi Constituency on 24.06.2024 as illegal and also for declaration, to declare 'acceptance of the nomination filed by the petitioner herein for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Bye Election to No.75, Vikravandi Constituency on 24.06.2024 as illegal'.

The petitioner also sought for the following prayers, viz.,

- (i) To declare that the rejection of the nomination of the petitioner, filed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Bye election to no. 75–Vikravandi Assembly Constituency on 24.06.2024 is unjust, illegal, invalid and against the Statutory Law, R.P.Act, and thereof.
- (ii) To declare that the acceptance of Nomination filed by the 4th respondent in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Bye election to no.75- Vikravandi Assembly Constituency on 24.06.2024 is illegal and against the Statutory law, R.P. Act , and thereof.
- (iii) To declare that the non-submissions of accounts by the 4th respondent as per section 77 of R.P.Act, 1951, is violative of R.P.Act is disqualify as per section 10-A of the R.P.Act.
- (iv) To declare that the election held on 10.07.2024, results announced and declare of the  $4^{\text{th}}$  respondent as elected on 13.07.2024 to no.75-Vikravandi Assembly Constituency Bye election of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
- 3. Pending the election petition, the petitioner who is the 4th respondent in the election petition filed this petition to reject the election petition on the ground that the election petition has not filed as per the mandatory provisions under section 83 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (herein after referred to as "the Act") and not verified properly. It does not contain a conscience statement of material facts on which the election petitioner relies and thereby does not satisfy the mandatory requirement of Section 83(1) of the Act. Therefore, the election petition itself is barred by law. The election petition has been filed without cause of action. There is no whisper in the election petition with regard to the cause of action for filing the same. Mere rejection of nomination would not give any cause of action to file election petition, that too for declaration of the returned candidate as Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Vikravandi Legislative Assembly constituency as null and void. The election petition has been filed on the ground of improper acceptance of the petitioner's nomination, improper rejection of the nomination of the first respondent, and the Returning Officer acted in a biased manner and supported the case of the petitioner herein. In order to substantiate the first ground that the improper acceptance of the petitioner's nomination, the first respondent must plead and prove that the result of the election insofar as it concerned, the returned candidate has been materially affected by improper acceptance of nomination as contemplated under section(1)(d)(i) of the Act. However, there is no whisper about how the result of the returned candidate has been materially affected in the election petition. The first respondent stated in his election petition that the petitioner failed to fill in part (a) of Column 6(a) in the Form 26 Affidavit and it was left blank as against the prescribed format. The petitioner had filled paragraph nos.5 and 6 as "not applicable" and the same was rightly accepted by the Returning Officer. Further, the allegations levelled in the election petition that the petitioner failed to fill in paragraph no.6 (a) of the nomination is of no importance as it is not the case of the first respondent that the petitioner had suppressed any criminal case registered

against him. Thus, the voters had complete knowledge of the fact that there are no cases pending against the petitioner. Therefore, even as per the pleading of the first respondent in the election petition there is complete compliance of section 33 (a) of the Act. The petitioner had duly filled in "not applicable "in paragraph no.5 & 6 of the nomination as prescribed in the said classes of Form 26. Therefore, non-filling of "not applicable" in paragraph no.6 (a) of the Nomination has been overlooked by the Returning Officer, as the same cannot be called as defective of substantial character. Though the first respondent alleged that the petitioner's nomination was mechanically accepted by the Returning Officer and it is against law framed in conduct of elections, there is no whisper about the manner in which the Returning Officer acted upon while receiving the petitioner's nomination. Therefore, the election petition is barred by law and liable to be rejected.

- 4. Per contra, on perusal of counter affidavit filed by the first respondent and the submissions made by Mr. T. Sivagnanasambandan, learned counsel for the first respondent revealed that the petitioner failed to fill in paragraph nos. 5 and 6 in Form 26 of the nomination and he being the ruling party candidate, his nomination was improperly accepted by the Returning Officer. Even according to the petitioner, part (a), column 6(a) of Form 26 had been left blank. It is against the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that all the columns in Form 26 has to be filled in and no column shall be left blank. Therefore, it is fatal to the election declaration and as such, the first respondent filed a petition for declaration to declare the election of the petitioner as null and void. The first respondent was not given an opportunity while returning his nomination. Further, the Returning Officer did not even state any reason for returning his nomination. Therefore, these grounds are clearly attracted to declare the election of the petitioner as null and void.
- 5. Heard the learned counsel on either side and perused the entire material available on record. The petitioner, the first respondent and the respondents 5 to 15 had contested for the Member of Legislative Assembly for no. 75, Vikravandi Legislative Assembly Constituency Bye election and filed their nominations. The candidates shall submit their nominations in Form 26 as prescribed along with requisite Form 26 affidavit duly filled in as prescribed along with Form A and B. There are totally 64 persons submitted their nominations to contest for the post of Member of Legislative Assembly to the Vikravandi Legislative Assembly Constituency. After scrutinizing all the nominations, 35 nominations were rejected out of 64 and 29 nominations were accepted by the Returning Officer. As far as the first respondent's nomination is concerned, it was rejected for the reason that in Form-26 affidavit in part (a) column (2) he stated his name is enrolled as Madurai West whereas, in part (b) Where abstract to be given from column 1 to 10 of part (9) column 3 stated as 75, Vikravandi. Further, he also stated his address as No. 124, Koovanur, Pillur Post, Sivagangai District. When the first respondent's name found in the voters list of Madurai West constituency as Serial no.748, ward no.193, he wrongly stated his address at Sivagangai and also his constituency name as no. 75, Vikravandi. Therefore, the Returning Officer had rightly rejected his nomination by order dated 24.06.2024 for the reason that there is discrepancy in details given in the affidavit of Form 26 Form (9) Serial (2) and part (b) Serial no.3.

- 6. On perusal of Form 26 affidavit of the petitioner, it is revealed that part (a) column no.5 in Form 26, the petitioner declared that there is no pending criminal case against him. If there is no criminal case pending, he has to write as "not applicable" insofar as the details of the case in column 5(2). Accordingly, the petitioner had filled it as "not applicable". The column no.6 shows about conviction case. The petitioner had not declared that he has not been convicted for any criminal offence, if he has not been convicted, he has to write" not applicable" in the other details column of details of cases. Accordingly, the petitioner, after his declaration as he has not been convicted in any criminal case and fill it as "not applicable "in other columns. Therefore, there is no column left out by the petitioner to reject his nomination as improper one.
- 7. The Election petition itself has been filed on three main grounds, viz.,(i) nomination of the first respondent/Election petitioner was improperly rejected by the Returning Officer, (ii) the nomination of the Applicant /4th respondent in ELP was improperly accepted by the Returning Officer, (iii) the Returning Officer had acted in a biased manner and supported the nomination of the petitioner who contested the election under the banner of ruling party. As explained above, the first two grounds to file the election petition for declaration, cannot be accepted for any of the declaration prayer. Insofar as the Returning Officer acted in a biased manner also, cannot be accepted since there is absolutely no averment to substantiate the said ground in the election petition. On perusal of the election petition, there is no whisper in the entire pleadings of the election petition with regard to the cause of action for filing the election petition. Mere repetition of allegations and provisions of the statute will not make out cause of action to file the election petition. Further, mere rejection of nomination of the petitioner will not give rise of any cause of action to file election petition. In fact, the first respondent categorically admitted that his nomination itself was defective one and the said defect is not a curable Therefore, the first respondent was not given any opportunity for hearing before the rejection of his nomination. The election petition has been filed on one of the ground that the nomination of the petitioner was improperly accepted by the Returning Officer. Therefore, the first respondent must plead and prove that the result of the election in respect of the petitioner as the returned candidate has been materially affected by improper acceptance of nomination. While accepting the nomination, the Returning Officer need not to state any reasons. On perusal of the provision under 36(6) of the Act shows that the Returning Officer shall endorse on each nomination is before his decision except to rejected the same and if the nomination is rejected shall record in writing to prove the statement of his reason for such rejection. Therefore, the contention of the first respondent that there was no compliance of the provision under section 36(6) since the Returning Officer had simply endorsed the acceptance of the nomination of the petitioner without recording any reason, cannot be accepted. It is relevant to reply upon the provision under Section 100 (1)(d)(i) in this regard.

Section 100: Grounds for declaring election to be void - (1) Subject to the provisions of Sub-section (2), if (the High Court) is of the opinion-

(d) that the result of the election, insofar as it concerns a returned candidate, has been materially affected-

- (i) by the improper acceptance of any nomination, or
- 8. Thus, it is clear that the election is liable to be declared as void on the ground of improper acceptance of the nomination since such improper acceptance of the nomination would materially affect the result of the election. Here, the first respondent failed to state that the acceptance of the nomination of the petitioner was materially affected the result of the election.
- 9. The provision under Section 83(1)(a) of the Act read with Order VII Rule 11 of CPC contemplates that the election petition must contain a conscience of statement of material facts, on which the petitioner relies. The bald and vague averments made in the election petition do not satisfy the requirements of pleadings of material facts within the meaning under Section 81(9) of the Act read with Order VII Rule 11 of CPC, which mandates that the election petition shall contain a conscience of statement of material facts on which the petitioner relies. The material facts required to be stated or those facts which can be considered as materially supported the allegations made, there must be such facts have to afford a basis for the allegations made in the objection and would constitute a cause of action as contemplated in the CPC. In fact, omission of single material fact leads to an incomplete cause of action and the statement of claim becomes bad, as held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The non mentioning of the particulars as to how such improper acceptance of nomination had materially affected the result of the election is apparent on the face of the election petition. Further, the pleadings of the election petition have to be precisely substantiate and unambiguous. Therefore, the allegations contained in the election petition did not set out as contemplated under Section 100(1)(d)(1) and did not conscience with the requirement of Section 83(1)(a) of the Act r/w Order VII Rule 11 of the CPC.

10. In view of the above, the Election Petition no.5 of 2024 cannot be sustained and it is liable to be rejected. Accordingly, O.A.No.128 of 2025 is allowed and consequently, ELP.No.05 of 2024 is rejected. No costs.

WITNESS, THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHRIRAM KALPATHI RAJENDRAN, CHIEF JUSTICE, HIGH COURT AT MADRAS, AFORESAID THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

Sd./-Assistant Registrar Original Side –II

//Certified to be true copy//

Dated at Madras this the 1st day of April 2025.

COURT OFFICER(O.S)

'Madras High Court is issuing certified copies in this format from 17/07/2023'.

28/03/2025

ELP.NO.5 OF 2024 AND O.A.NO.128 OF 2025

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

ORDER DATED: 18/03/2025 FOR APPROVAL: 28/03/2025 APPROVED ON:28/03/2025

## Copy to:

- Chief Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, No.1, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001.
- 2. Chief Electoral Officer Public Elections Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai- 600 009.
- 3. Returning Officer 75- Vikravandi Assembly Constituency, Vikravandi Taluk Office, Villupuram District – 605 652.

(By Order)

LATA TRIPATHI Secretary, Election Commission of India.

Secretariat, Chennai-600 009, 29th May, 2025 ARCHANA PATNAIK, Chief Electoral Officer and Secretary to Government.